



## National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

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# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending October 2, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Autumn brought cooler temperatures to many parts of the state as nighttime temperatures dropped into the 40's. Rainfall once again fell short of forecasted predictions, allowing dry weather to persist throughout Pennsylvania; however, scattered showers brought mild relief to soil moisture levels. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, haymaking, harvesting apples, planting barley and wheat, harvesting corn, harvesting soybeans, finishing the corn silage harvest, spreading manure and lime, weaning beef calves, and fertility checks on cows.

Ninety-four percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent, and 51 percent of the crop is harvested. The grape harvest is in full swing as 33 percent of the crop has been harvested.

**Livestock:** Dry conditions continue to force producers to feed hay stocks as pastures remain short on green grass. Pasture conditions rated with the following: 38 percent very poor, 34 percent poor, 22 percent fair and 6 percent good.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 2, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
35	44	21	0

**Crops:** Fall plowing is now 50 percent complete, ahead of last year's pace and the 5-year average. Eighty-two percent of the soybean crop is now dropping leaves and 14 percent of the crop is now harvested, well ahead of last year's pace. Soybean conditions improved slightly from last week as 60 percent of the crop is now rated as either good or excellent. Ninety-eight percent of the corn crop is at or beyond the dented stage, and 87 percent of the crop is mature. Forty-three percent of corn for grain is now harvested, well ahead of the 5-year average. The corn silage harvest is winding down and is now 93 percent complete, well ahead of the historic pace. Ninety-two percent of potatoes are now harvested. Eighty-one percent of next year's barley crop is planted, and 43 percent of the crop is already emerged. Both are well ahead of the historic pace. Thirty-seven percent of winter wheat has been planted, and 9 percent of the crop is already emerged. Eighty-two percent of the 4<sup>th</sup> cutting of alfalfa is now complete. The quality of hay made this week was very good and was rated with the following conditions: 2 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 31 percent excellent.

**U.S. as of September 25, 2005:** Highlights: Hurricane Rita came ashore as a Category 3 storm on Saturday near the Texas-Louisiana border. High winds, heavy rain, and tornadoes damaged open-boll cotton as far east as Mississippi, but much of the rice crop in the storm-affected area had already been harvested. Moderate rainfall across most of the Corn Belt favored winter wheat emergence but caused minor fieldwork delays. In the Southeast, dry weather continued to deplete soil moisture and stress cotton and peanuts. Crop conditions generally improved in the Great Plains despite dry weather. Further west, conditions were mostly dry, though moderate precipitation fell in parts of the northern and central Rocky Mountains. Above-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation, exceeding the normal by over 6 degrees Fahrenheit across the central and southern Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, Southeast, and most of the Corn Belt. Only along the Pacific Coast and northern Rocky Mountains were temperatures below normal.

Corn: Maturation advanced to 76 percent, compared with 56 percent last year and 71 percent for the 5-year average. Soybeans: Acreage dropping leaves or beyond, at 83 percent, was 14 points ahead of last year and 11 points ahead of normal. Leaf dropping progressed well in the Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt, advancing 20 points or more in most States. Winter Wheat: Producers had sown 39 percent of their crop, 1 point behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Twelve percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 15 percent last year and 14 percent for the 5-year average.

# Weather Data For Week Ending October 2, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 2, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	80	46	61	3	1.24	3	19.04	-3.87	61	2,948	461	4,612
Franklin	79	39	58	2	2.00	4	22.50	-2.50	98	2,624	325	4,335
Meadville	77	42	58	3	2.48	4	23.45	-1.51	71	2,725	618	4,432
Mercer	81	39	59	2	1.99	4	23.56	-0.28	95	2,711	432	4,400
Springboro	80	41	57	-2	2.48	4	25.24	3.00	78	2,479	32	4,127
Warren	79	39	58	2	3.08	4	21.41	-3.74	73	2,584	360	4,275
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	74	32	54	3	2.69	4	24.21	-0.90	82	2,017	411	3,626
Emporium	76	39	58	4	1.47	4	16.28	-8.52	76	2,584	759	4,277
Kane	76	31	53	2	2.65	4	20.42	-5.15	67	1,929	358	3,531
Laporte	67	37	54	-3	1.15	3	22.94	-0.20	80	2,331	57	3,977
Lock Haven	75	40	60	3	0.68	2	12.82	-9.95	63	2,964	546	4,707
Port Allegany	75	36	55	3	1.95	4	18.65	-5.15	67	2,212	439	3,831
Renovo	76	40	59	2	0.43	3	12.16	-10.61	60	2,910	492	4,652
Ridgway	76	34	55	2	1.87	4	20.19	-4.61	71	2,253	428	3,916
Stevenson Dam	76	40	59	5	1.01	3	16.07	-8.73	70	2,744	919	4,468
Towanda	75	37	58	2	0.64	3	16.24	-3.02	62	2,723	432	4,429
Wellsboro	70	34	53	-1	1.31	3	21.87	2.51	61	2,167	453	3,785
Williamsport	74	40	61	3	0.47	2	21.37	-1.02	54	3,150	484	4,904
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	74	35	56	2	0.45	3	16.29	-5.55	63	2,426	464	4,096
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	74	39	60	3	0.50	2	12.54	-8.68	59	3,228	700	4,982
Susquehanna	73	38	57	3	1.09	3	19.45	-3.85	72	2,594	736	4,281
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	81	37	58	2	1.83	4	20.37	-3.21	71	2,755	369	4,509
New Castle	85	39	60	4	2.39	4	23.92	2.28	68	3,007	617	4,757
Slippery Rock	82	39	59	4	2.30	3	22.52	-0.51	71	2,795	651	4,559
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	75	35	60	3	0.52	3	11.25	-9.32	50	2,720	185	4,453
DuBois	77	34	58	2	1.71	5	18.37	-5.35	89	2,541	351	4,252
Lewistown	78	38	60	0	0.55	2	16.46	-5.58	56	3,118	332	4,893
Middletown	77	44	64	3	0.22	2	16.14	-5.82	51	3,653	506	5,468
Prince Gallitzi	77	32	55	0	0.90	2	16.65	-9.87	72	2,384	343	4,068
Selingsgrove	75	40	59	1	0.56	2	17.63	-5.34	57	3,014	413	4,769
State College	73	40	58	2	0.68	4	12.37	-8.41	67	2,940	442	4,704
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	77	38	62	3	0.22	2	19.19	-4.84	60	3,282	408	5,071
Lehighton	72	39	58	-2	0.55	2	19.47	-4.42	61	2,944	176	4,712
Matamoras	73	36	57	-2	0.57	2	21.19	-2.97	69	2,626	129	4,335
Tobyhanna	73	39	59	7	0.67	3	22.47	-3.28	89	2,911	1,213	4,667
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	40	62	5	0.90	3	16.29	-5.58	74	3,306	751	5,105
Derry	84	39	60	3	0.82	2	19.96	-2.85	60	2,822	411	4,578
Myersdale	81	30	57	-2	0.28	2	16.02	-8.87	61	2,205	-176	3,866
Mount Pleasant	85	34	60	5	0.94	3	21.36	-4.59	76	2,743	586	4,501
Pittsburgh Intl	83	39	61	3	0.95	3	20.06	-0.49	66	3,146	471	4,928
Rector	81	37	60	4	0.92	4	19.76	-6.19	92	2,755	598	4,511
Waynesburg	87	36	61	4	0.32	3	17.08	-5.29	64	2,871	393	4,639
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	78	40	61	-1	0.27	2	20.60	-0.19	61	3,215	139	5,008
Everett	75	33	57	-2	0.21	2	11.07	-8.95	56	2,287	-244	3,975
Hanover	79	37	61	0	0.09	2	20.46	-0.33	54	3,197	121	4,981
Shippensburg	80	39	61	0	0.23	2	20.11	-0.14	66	3,259	200	5,040
South Mountain	73	36	58	-1	0.41	2	19.60	-0.97	56	2,744	216	4,537
York	79	34	62	2	0.18	2	14.33	-7.81	47	3,237	172	5,020
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	78	41	62	3	0.24	2	17.56	-5.70	55	3,276	527	5,072
Hamburg	75	40	61	4	0.50	2	18.86	-7.94	54	3,271	769	5,061
Hopewell	78	41	62	0	0.33	2	21.52	-2.90	78	3,292	56	5,090
Lancaster	78	41	63	3	0.17	2	20.19	-3.23	55	3,371	463	5,165
Neshaminy Falls	80	40	61	2	0.32	2	21.49	-5.42	50	3,117	246	4,888
New Holland	79	41	63	3	0.39	2	17.59	-5.83	53	3,451	543	5,249
Philadelphia	83	48	67	5	0.14	2	17.08	-5.72	52	3,862	514	5,699
Philadelphia NE	81	44	66	3	0.22	2	20.21	-2.59	54	3,744	396	5,570
Reading	78	41	63	5	0.17	2	16.88	-8.13	56	3,528	674	5,328
Valley Forge Na	80	38	61	-1	0.12	1	17.96	-6.46	42	3,144	-92	4,910
Willow Grove	80	43	64	5	0.14	2	17.13	-9.78	41	3,461	590	5,273

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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## Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - This week was hot and dry like all of September. Total rainfall came to 2/10" for the month. Dry weather has made for good quality apples, but size is small. The lack of cool nights resulted in poor color development for fresh fruit apples. The rapid dry-down of corn has caused silage harvest to come to an end. It is difficult to find corn for high moisture processing at this time.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA)** - Parts of Adams County received some rain late on Monday afternoon. It was enough to settle the dust only. Thursday's forecast is predicting some more rain today with wind. This week's temperatures have not been as hot, and evenings are getting cooler. Daytime temperatures have been about 70-75, and some evening temperatures got down to 40 degrees. Corn continues to be harvested, and good yields are being reported. Most guys are holding out harvesting due to moisture levels and the high price of fuel to dry the corn down. Soybean harvest continues for early soybeans that were planted. Wheat and barley are being sown. Producers are hoping for some moisture so that wheat and barley can get started emerging. Apples continue to be harvested in the county. There will be several visitors to Apple Country this weekend and next weekend as the National Apple Harvest Festival celebrates our apple industry.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Very dry! We got 3/4" of rain in my gauge this week.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty(AgChoice)** - Harvest is picking up. So far, corn test weights have been better than expected and are as high as 60 pounds. Yields vary greatly. Corn has dried down to the point some can be harvested and stored without drying. With high fuel prices, this is one bright spot.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - This was an ideal growing year for most crops. Outside of a couple hailstorms, the crop yields were fantastic. In the four-county area north of I-80, yields have not been this good for 10 years according to most farmers. The pastures didn't fair as well, and a lot of pasture feeding has dipped into winter feed.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT)** - With dry weather, corn harvesting will begin in earnest this week. Field conditions have been good for small grain planting. Rain will be extremely important to get the grains growing.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burrell Whitworth Jr** - The rain that was predicted did not come except for a light shower. Harvesting of crops is in full swing.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** Corn continues to come off, moisture is from 16-19%, and yields are around average or above; however, stalk quality is decreasing. Soybean harvest began late in the week. There have been no reports on yields, but moisture was good. Some small grain was seeded, but many farmers are still waiting for moisture. Only 3/10" to 4/10" of rain fell this week. It's still very dry and dusty. Livestock farmers are feeding hay because there is no grass in the pastures and have been feeding hay for weeks.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer** - Another week without significant rainfall allowed for many field activities. Soybean harvest is beginning with yields being respectable, while there are varying bean sizes. Corn silage is nearly complete, and a few farmers are still making excellent quality hay. Some hay fields are showing signs of chickweed. The wheat and barley has emerged very nicely. The main activities were sowing wheat and barley, harvesting corn and soybeans, and making hay.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS)** - Even with the rain last week, producers tell me that more, and especially soaking, rain is needed.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Most of the county got about an inch of rain this week and some cooler temperatures. There was even a very light, scattered frost on Friday morning. The warm days are still allowing some nice alfalfa hay to be made. Many producers are concerned with corn's ability to stay upright and are beginning harvest even with the extra drying cost.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 2, 2005**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	50	47	42
Corn, dent	98	94	88
Corn, mature	87	77	58
Corn, harvested	43	31	22
Corn silage, harvested	93	85	77
Barley, planted	81	62	45
Barley, emerged	43	35	25
Wheat, planted	37	42	26
Wheat, emerged	9	12	11
Soybeans, harvested	14	4	5
Potatoes, harvested	92	75	74
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	82	51	58
Apples, harvested	51	69	59
Grapes, harvested	33	31	46

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 2, 2005**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	4	10	29	42	15
Soybeans	3	9	28	45	15
Quality of hay made	0	2	20	47	31
Pasture	38	34	22	6	0
Apples	1	1	4	31	63

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